



Slough Borough Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Temporary Medical Officer of Health

J. W. WEBB,
M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.)

For the Year 1945

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector

L. A. STROUD,
D.P.A., M.R.S.I.

67160



Mayor :

ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, J.P., C.C.

Deputy Mayor :

ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN.

Members of the Health and Sanitation Committee.

COUNCILLOR A. DARVILL, C.C. (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR C. E. HARVEY (*Vice-Chairman*).

ALDERMAN A. G. TREVENER, J.P.

ALDERMAN A. E. WARD, J.P., C.C.

ALDERMAN F. R. WHITEMAN.

COUNCILLOR R. C. ABBOTT.

COUNCILLOR MISS R. HARRISON.

COUNCILLOR E. W. LOBJOIT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR H. F. SANDERS, C.C.

COUNCILLOR J. E. TAYLOR, C.C.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the report for the year 1945. I regret its late appearance, but the Vital Statistics were not received from the Ministry until 30th June. In view of the retirement of your late Medical Officer of Health, I have been obliged to restrict the report to essential matters.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-Year 1945) 60,220

Live Births.

TOTAL	1138	Male	604	Female	534
Legitimate	1037	„	548	„	489
Illegitimate	101	„	56	„	45
Birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.9
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	16.1

Still Births.

TOTAL	25	Male	10	Female	15
Legitimate	23	„	8	„	15
Illegitimate	2	„	2	„	—
Still-birth rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.51
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	0.46

Deaths.

TOTAL	506	Male	274	Female	232
Death rate per 1000 population	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.4
National rate	„	„	.....	.....	11.4

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

- (a) From Sepsis 1
- (b) From other causes 0

Death rates from Puerperal causes per 1000 total Births

(i.e., Live and Still Births) including abortion—

- (a) From Sepsis 0.86 National rate 0.57
- (b) From other causes — National rate 1.22
- (c) TOTAL 0.86 National rate 1.79

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	37	Male	25	Female	12
Legitimate	35	„	24	„	11
Illegitimate	2	„	1	„	1

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births .....	.....	.....	32.5
National rate , , , ,	.....	.....	46.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births .....	.....	.....	33.7
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births .....	.....	.....	18.9

Causes of Death.

	ALL CAUSES	Male	Female
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0
2 Measles	1	0
3 Scarlet fever	0	0
4 Whooping Cough	1	0
5 Diphtheria	0	1
6 Influenza	1	2
7 Encephalitis lethargica	0	0
8 Cerebro-spinal fever	0	0
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	14	12
10 Other Tuberculosis diseases	5	1
11 Syphilitic diseases	3	1
12 Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis	0	0
13 Cancer, malignant disease	35	32
14 Diabetes	1	6
15 Intra-cranial vascular lesions	16	26
16 Heart disease	78	77
17 Other circulatory diseases	4	6
18 Bronchitis	18	8
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	15	8
20 Other respiratory diseases	7	3
21 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	0
22 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	2	0
23 Appendicitis	3	3
24 Other digestive diseases	4	7
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	5	2
26 Puerperal sepsis	0	1
27 Other maternal causes	0	0
28 Premature birth	4	2
29 Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infant diseases	11	6
30 Road Traffic Accidents	4	5
31 Suicide	4	4
32 Other violence	4	4
33 All other causes	28	15

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases during 1945.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified during 1945, numbers admitted to Hospital and Deaths, also notifications for years 1933-1944.

	Notified Cases 1945	Cases admitted to Hosp.	Total Deaths	Population in thousands											
				61 1944	62 1943	64 1942	65 1941	Total 1940	Cases notified 1939	53 1938	50 1937	48 1937	44 1936	41 1935	38 1934	36 1933
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	113	66	—	151	120	63	80	72	60	130	100	36	70	94	61
Diphtheria	8	8	1	30	23	5	38	91	78	57	5	2	26	10	6
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	6	3	1	10	9	10	13	15	33	12	14	8	3	6	2
Pneumonia	28	2	2	33	34	27	26	31	23	36	33	31	12	23	29
Erysipelas	9	4	—	7	22	5	28	22	26	33	16	9	5	13	17
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	—
Measles	826	39	1	29	995	179	258	998	6*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	92	7	1	146	164	36	224	64	7*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	6	6	—	5	5	8	10	18	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—	—	—	2	28	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

* Notifiable from October 23rd, 1939.

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	11	16	20	9	8	8	9	6	5	8	9	4
Diphtheria	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Pneumonia	7	7	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	6
Erysipelas	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—
Measles	11	5	80	254	367	81	23	5	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	9	11	15	4	1	6	11	8	3	3	3	18
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

TABLE III.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

NEW CASES.

Primary Notifications. From Death Returns.

DEATHS.

Age Periods	Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
5 -	—	1	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
15 -	7	2	2	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 -	6	3	1	—	2	5	1	—	1	1	—	—
35 -	5	1	—	—	4	2	1	—	3	2	—	—
45 -	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55 -	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 up-	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTAL	25	7	5	2	14	12	5	1	8	4	2	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis 0.53 per 1000

The Vital Statistics show that the general health of the district has been well maintained through the year.

Live births totalled 1,138, a rate of 18.9 compared with the national rate of 16.1. The rate is slightly lower than in 1944, when it reached the peak of 20.5, but the national rate has also declined from 17.6 to 16.1.

The Infantile Mortality rate is 32.5 and is 13.5 below the national rate. This creates a new low record for the Borough, the lowest number previously recorded being 32.7 in 1935. Only one maternal death occurred, thus giving a maternal mortality rate of 0.86 compared with the national rate of 1.79.

The death rate remains low at 8.4 compared with the National rate of 11.4. The main causes of death were Heart disease (155), Cancer (67), Intracranial vascular lesions (44), and Tuberculosis (32).

The death rate from Tuberculosis was 0.53 per 1,000, the corresponding figures for the past 10 years being 0.59, 0.52, 0.45, 0.64, 0.5, 0.5, 0.4, 0.6, 0.5, 0.6.

8 cases of Diphtheria were notified, of which 3 were adults and 5 children of school age. All these children had been immunised and all except one had the disease in a mild form. The exception—a girl of 10—was attacked by a particularly virulent form of the disease and died.

87% of the schoolchildren in the Borough have now been immunised and 65% of the "under fives." The schools continue to be visited regularly for the purpose of immunising any children whose parent gives consent.

Fewer cases of Scarlet Fever were notified this year, there being 113 compared with 151 last year. The largest number occurred in March.

A Measles epidemic occurred this year, reaching its peak in April and May when 254 and 367 cases were notified. In all, 826 cases were notified, of which only one—a boy of 21 months—proved fatal.

Six cases of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis occurred, all of whom were admitted to the Joint Isolation Hospital and all recovered.

There were 92 cases of Whooping Cough. One case—a boy of 9 months—died from the complaint.

2 cases of Infantile Paralysis occurred, one in October and one in December. Both recovered.

During the year the following specimens were examined at the Town Hall Laboratory.

For Diphtheria Bacilli .....	.....	.....	.....	304
For Hæmolytic Streptococci .....	.....	.....	.....	56
For Vincent's Angina .....	.....	.....	.....	10
Sputum for Tubercl Bacilli .....	.....	.....	.....	99
Blood for Widal .....	.....	.....	.....	—
Blood Sedimentation Rates .....	.....	.....	.....	34
Blood Counts .....	.....	.....	.....	12
Fæces for Typhoid, Dysentery, etc. .....	.....	.....	.....	14
For Gonococci .....	.....	.....	.....	11
Milk—				
(a) Plate Count .....	.....	.....	.....	64
(b) Phosphatase Test .....	.....	.....	.....	42
(c) Methylene Blue Test .....	.....	.....	.....	75
(d) Coliform Test .....	.....	.....	.....	33
(e) Informal Chemical Test .....	.....	.....	.....	100
Water Samples .....	.....	.....	.....	13

GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Table No. 1.

General Summary.

Total Inspections .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,792
Complaints Received .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	972
Preliminary Notices Served .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	710
Secondary Notices Served .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	190
Statutory Notices Served .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73
Letters Received .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,390
Letters Despatched .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	554
Interviews with Owners, Agents, and Builders .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	832

Table No. 2.

Inspection Work Performed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

General Sanitary Work .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,709
Infectious Diseases .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130
Rats and Mice Destruction .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	441
Shops Acts .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	93
Housing .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	838
Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers' Premises .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	139
Meat and Food Inspection and premises at which food is prepared, stored and sold .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,645
Dairies, etc. .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	198

Table No. 3.

Sanitary Improvements Effected.

Dwelling-houses (Repaired, etc.) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	370
Drainage .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	335
Portable Dustbins provided .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	326
Cowsheds and Dairies .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Premises used for the preparation of food .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Factories and Workplaces .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
Slaughterhouses .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Moveable Dwellings.

No applications were received for licences to use land as camping sites for moveable dwellings, but four applications for licences to erect moveables were considered by the Health and Sanitation Committee. Two licences were granted and two applications were refused.

Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers.

There are 479 premises within the Borough which come under the Factories Act 1938, mechanical power being employed at 417 factories.

Notices were served requiring improvements at several factories, bakehouses and workplaces. Bakehouses were regularly inspected and generally found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Half-yearly lists received from employers of outworkers returned 26 outworkers whose homes were inspected.

Rodent Control.

68 notifications of rodent infestation were received and 441 investigations were made in addition to the work of the rodent operative. Infestations of the "Black rat" or "Ship rat" found at industrial premises and thought to have arisen from rats being carried in crates of imported goods were promptly dealt with. Much time was devoted to rodent destruction upon Corporation-owned premises.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

Milk and Dairies.

The number of persons registered as wholesale purveyors and producers of milk is 23 and as retail purveyors 16, 1 producer and 1 retailer discontinued during the year.

2 Pasteuriser's Licences, 1 T.T. Bottling Licence, 3 T.T. Dealers' Licences and 2 Supplementary Licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

Examination of Milk.

140 samples of milk were procured for examination other than chemical tests, at the Town Hall Laboratory. Analysis of the results shows that of the total samples taken 20% were unsatisfactory, and of designated milks 1.6% were unsatisfactory.

Summarised, the results were as follows:-

SAMPLES.	RESULTS.	
48—Pasteurised milk	47	complied with prescribed conditions
8—Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised milk)	8	do.
4—Tuberculin Tested Milk	4	do.
35—Heat Treated milk	23	were satisfactory
41—Non-Designated milk	26	do.

Investigations followed all samples giving unsatisfactory results and further samples proved satisfactory.

Biological Testing of Milk.

18 samples of milk were submitted to the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Reading for Biological Testing for the presence of Tubercl Baccilli. All samples gave negative results.

Food & Drugs Adulteration.

A total of 108 food and drug samples were procured during the year, of these 2 formal food samples and 2 formal and one informal drug samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis.

The Public Analyst certified samples of "British Sherry" and "British Tawny Wine" to consist of coloured and flavoured cider and legal proceedings were instituted against the distributors of these wines (see Table No. 7). An informal sample of "Calamine Lotion" was adversely reported upon, but subsequent formal samples proved genuine.

One hundred and three samples of milk were procured for informal analysis by Gerber Testing for fat and solids other than fat at the Town Hall Laboratory. The quality of milk sold in Slough from a chemical point of view appears to be satisfactory, the average of the milk samples procured being Fat 3.4% and non-fatty solids 9.0%.

Food & Drugs Act 1938.

A report was made to the Borough Council by your Chief Sanitary Inspector upon the desirability of application being made to the Ministry of Health for Direction under Section 64 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, for the Borough Council to be the Food and Drugs Authority for their district in lieu of the Bucks County Council. After consideration an application was made and the Minister of Health gave a Direction to operate as from 1st April, 1946.

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream.

There are 55 premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act 1938 at which ice cream is manufactured, stored or sold, all of which have been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Manufacture and Sale of Preserved Food.

There are 32 premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for the preparation or manufacture for sale of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food. All premises were regularly inspected and found to be maintained in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Seven licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year. The provisions relating to the slaughtering of animals have been well observed.

Meat & Food Inspection.

It is with pleasure that I record the inspection of 100% of the animals slaughtered at the two private slaughterhouses within the Borough requisitioned by the Ministry of Food. The total number of animal carcases inspected (excluding imported meat) was 8,216, in respect of which 886 visits were made, and 24 tons of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption. Details are given in Tables 4 and 5.

Much time was also devoted to the inspection of foods, other than meat, 685 inspections being made to foodshops, stores and warehouses and over 14 tons of foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption (see Table No. 6). It was not found necessary to make any formal seizures of unsound food.

Table No. 4.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.					
No. of animals slaughtered and inspected	Cattle	Cows	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Calves
	Ex. Cows				
Disease Except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	1	5	20	13	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	325	219	58	102	4
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	18.7 %	32.0 %	2.3 %	12.1 %	0.5 %
Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	6	20	—	3	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	211	281	—	50	11
% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	12.5 %	42.9 %	—	5.6 %	0.8 %

Table No. 5.

WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT.						
	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases		
	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Carcasses and Parts of Carcasses	153	2	27	59	0	2
Organs	154	1	17	116	0	2
TOTALS	308	0	16	175	0	4

Table No. 6.

WEIGHTS OF CANNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.					
Canned Foods	Preserves	Fish lbs.	Bacon	Imported Meat	Vegetables
5270	1183	1969	554	334	5012
Fruit	Cereals	Eggs	Cheese	Misc.	
12208	1106	269	220	3798	

TOTAL WEIGHT: 14 tons, 5 cwts., 3 lbs.

Rent & Mortgage Interest Restriction Acts 1920 to 1938.

One application for a Certificate of the Sanitary Authority as to the state of repair of a dwelling house was received during the year and was granted.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

1. Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Sections 3 and 85.

Sales of British Wines to the prejudice of the purchaser, and the giving of false warranties (8 offences). Defendants were convicted before the Magistrates' Court and fines amounting to £120 and £52 10s. 0d. costs were imposed. Upon appeal by the defendants to the Court of Quarter Sessions, the appeal against the convictions was dismissed, but the fines were reduced to £80, the Corporation being allowed £25 costs in respect of the appeal.

2. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269.

The keeping of an unlicensed moveable dwelling at 158, Cippenham Lane, Slough. The dwelling was removed before the date fixed for the case to be heard and the case was withdrawn.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CORPORATION IN DEFAULT OF PROPERTY OWNERS.

1. Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75.

Provision of dustbin at 19, Hencroft Street, Slough.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough is supplied by the Slough Borough Council Works, except in the western portion which is supplied by the Burnham Waterworks.

The Slough Borough Council Waterworks supply has been adequate and the monthly tests have shown it to be of a consistently high standard of purity. There have been considerable extensions of distribution mains in connection with temporary and permanent housing schemes. The first section of the 18-inch ring main approved by the Ministry of Health as a war-time scheme was brought into use and resulted in considerable improvement in supply and pressure in the extreme eastern part of the district.

The Burnham Waterworks Company has maintained a satisfactory standard of water throughout the year. Four examinations of raw water were made and all were satisfactory.

4 cottages at the eastern end and 16 properties at the western end of the district have not as yet been connected to the main, but it is anticipated that further housing developments in the near future will lead to the necessary main extensions to the western properties.

The waters in the swimming pools at Baylis House and the Social Centre were examined and found to be satisfactory. The swimming pool at Montem Lane was less satisfactory and has been converted into a boating pool.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. WEBB,

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

